

Message Text

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAG: MARR PFOR US GR

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: GOG CHANGES
POSITION ON UMBRELLA AGREEMENT

1. STEARNS MET WITH CALOGERAS TODAY, AT GREEK NEGOTIATOR'S INITIATIVE, TO HEAR NEW GREEK POSITION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF CONCLUDING AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT. CALOGERAS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, AFTER REVIEWING US RESERVATIONS ABOUT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT FORMAT, WHICH HAD BEEN VOICED MOST RECENTLY BY STEARNS IN THIRD ROUND OF BASE TALKS, HAD DECIDED THAT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARY FROM GREEK STANDPOINT. ACCORDINGLY, SAID CALOGERAS, HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM STEARNS THAT

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GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS NO LONGER SEEKING TO INCORPORATE

RESULTS OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN A SINGLE OVERALL AGREEMENT. GOG WISHED INSTEAD TO DISCUSS WITH US THE FEASIBILITY OF AMENDING EXISTING AGREEMENTS--SPECIFICALLY THE 1953 FACILITIES AGREEMENT AND THE 1959 SOUDA AGREEMENT--AND TO COVER OTHER SUBJECTS BY EXCHANGES OF NOTES OR LETTERS.

2. STEARNS RECALLED THAT GREEK SIDE FOR OVER A YEAR HAD BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND ARGUING THAT ONLY THIS FORMAT WOULD MEET GREEK POLITICAL NEEDS. HE THEREFORE WONDERED WHAT WAS BEHIND THIS CHANGE IN THE GREEK POSITION.

3. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE BELIEVED CARAMANLIS WAS PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY HIS DESIRE TO SAVE TIME AND SECONDLY BY A CHANGED PERCEPTION OF POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS. PRIME MINISTER APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE US HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT IN THE THIRD ROUND, NEGOTIATING SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS WHICH WOULD DELAY COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS LONGER THAN CARAMANLIS THOUGHT DESIRABLE. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY THE NEW SOFA NEED BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR FORMAL APPROVAL. HE COULD THEREBY AVOID AN ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE DEBATE OF THE KIND WHICH MIGHT BE NECESSARY IF AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WERE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR SCRUTINY.

4. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION CALOGERAS INDICATED THAT, AS GREEKS NOW FORESAW OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS, THERE WOULD BE (A) NEW SOFA; (B) EXCHANGES OF NOTES ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS; (C) EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS; (D) AMENDED VERSION OF 1953 MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT; AND (E) AMENDED VERSION OF 1959 SOUDA AGREEMENT. CALOGERAS ADDED THAT WHILE GREEKS WERE "WITHDRAWING" THEIR PROPOSAL FOR AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, THEY WOULD WISH TO INCORPORATE IN AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS SOME OF THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST INFORMAL DRAFT OF AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAD HANDED US IN THE COURSE OF

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ROUND ONE OVER A YEAR AGO.

5. STEARNS SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHICH IDEAS THE GREEKS WISHED TO CARRY OVER SINCE, AS CALOGERAS KNEW, THE GREEK DRAFT HAD POSED DIFFICULTIES FOR US. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE REALIZED THIS AND THAT HE AND MACHERITSAS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS GREEK VIEWS FURTHER WHEN THEY WERE IN WASHINGTON.

MEANWHILE, GOG WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE WASHINGTON'S PRELIMINARY REACTION TO THE NEW GREEK POSITION. CALOGERAS AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER DROPPING THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS IN ROUND FOUR. IN THIS CONNECTION, CALOGERAS UNDERSTOOD THAT BITSIOS HAD CONVEYED TO AMB KUBISCH AND DEPUTY ASST SECY LAINGEN THE PRIME MINISTERS DESIRE TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS BY MID-APRIL. ALTHOUGH CALOGERAS HIMSELF HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER THE WORK COULD BE COMPLETED BY THEN HE COULD ASSURE STEARNS THAT CARAMANLIS WAS IN EARNEST ABOUT PRESSING AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD BE IMPATIENT ABOUT ANY DELAYS.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT CALOGERAS ASSERTION THAT CARAMANLIS HIMSELF HAS CHANGED THE GREEK POSITION ON CONCLUDING AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND THAT HIS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR DOING SO WAS TO SAVE TIME AND PARTIALLY LIMIT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CARAMANLIS ALSO HAD IN MIND OUR EFFORTS TO USE THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AS LEVERAGE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES UNDER NEGOTIATION. WHATEVER HIS REASONING, THE NEW GREEK POSITION SEEMS TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN THE OLD ONE AND, IF IT DOES NOT RAISE LEGAL PROBLEMS OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE, MAY PROVE AS EXPEDIENT FOR US AS THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVES IT WILL PROVE FOR HIM. KUBISCH

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